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CENTRAL FAX CENTERU.S. Application No.: 10/728,653  
AMENDMENT A

Attorney Docket: 3968-099

MAR 08 2007

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (Currently amended) A spherical capsule comprising a liquid core and a seamless solid shell surrounding said core, wherein
  - the capsule has a diameter in the range of 4 - 8 mm,
  - the shell has a thickness in the range of 20 - 200  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
  - the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.004 - 0.04,
  - the shell comprises 70 - 90 % (m/m) gelatin and 10 - 30 % (m/m) plasticizer, based on the solids content of the shell, and
    - the core has a flavoring content in the range of 1 - 100 % (m/m), based on the total mass of the core, wherein the shell comprises (a) a gelatin having a Bloom value of at least 200 and (b) a gelatin having a Bloom value of 0, a fish gelatin having a Bloom value of < 200, or both.
2. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein
  - the diameter of the capsule is in the range of 4.5 - 6.5 mm,
  - the thickness of the shell is in the range of 50 - 150  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
  - the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.01 - 0.03.
3. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the shell is prepared from a mixture containing gelatin and plasticizer which has a gel point in the range between 15 °C and 60 °C.

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Claims 4 & 5. (canceled)

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6. (currently amended) The capsule according to Claim 1 [[5]], wherein the fish gelatin is a cold water fish gelatin and/or has a gel point of  $< 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
7. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid core contains a sweetener that is selected from the group that consists of thaumatin, neohesperidine, miraculin and mixtures thereof.
8. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the concentration of the plasticizer in the shell is 10 - 30 % (m/m), based on the total solids content of the shell.
9. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the plasticizer comprises one or more polyols.
10. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the gelatin is selected from the group that consists of pig gelatin, cattle gelatin, chicken gelatin, fish gelatin and mixtures thereof.
11. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the shell contains a sweetener that is selected from the group that consists of sucralose, aspartame, acesulfame K, thaumatin, Na saccharine, neohesperidin and mixtures thereof.
12. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 1, wherein the shell contains gellan gum.
- ~~13. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 12, wherein the shell contains 0.4 - 3 % (m/m) gellan gum, based on the solids content of the shell.~~

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14. (previously presented) A method for the preparation of a capsule according to Claim 1, said method comprising simultaneously pumping a liquid core material and a gelatin-containing curable shell mixture through a concentric multi-component nozzle so that they drip into a cooling liquid with the formation of a capsule.
15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said curable shell mixture comprises gelatin and plasticizer.
16. (canceled)
17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of adjusting the hardness and dissolving power of the shell of said spherical capsule using a mixture consisting of (a) a gelatin having a Bloom value of at least 200 and (b) a gelatin having a Bloom value of 0 and/or a fish gelatin.
18. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 2, wherein
  - the diameter of the capsule is in the range of 4.5 - 5.5 mm,
  - the thickness of the shell is in the range of 50 - 90  $\mu$ m, and
  - the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.01 - 0.02.
19. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 3, wherein the shell is prepared from a mixture containing gelatin and plasticizer which has a gel point in the range between 20 °C and 40 °C.

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20. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 19, wherein the shell is prepared from a mixture containing gelatin and plasticizer which has a gel point in the range between 25 °C and 35 °C.
21. (currently amended) The capsule according to Claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein a gelatin having a Bloom value in the range of 240 - 300 is used for the preparation of the shell.
22. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 8, wherein the concentration of the plasticizer in the shell is 15 - 20 % (m/m), based on the total solids content of the shell.
23. (previously presented) The capsule according to Claim 9, wherein said polyol is selected from the group that consists of glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol and maltitol.
24. (new) A spherical capsule comprising a liquid core and a seamless solid shell surrounding said core, wherein
- the capsule has a diameter in the range of 4 - 8 mm,
  - the shell has a thickness in the range of 20 - 200  $\mu$ m,
  - the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.004 - 0.04,
  - the shell comprises 70 - 90 % (m/m) gelatin and 10 - 30 % (m/m) plasticizer, based on the solids content of the shell, and
  - the core has a flavoring content in the range of 1 - 100 % (m/m), based on the total mass of the core, wherein the shell contains gellan gum.
25. (new) A spherical capsule comprising a liquid core and a seamless solid shell surrounding said core, wherein
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- the capsule has a diameter in the range of 4 - 8 mm,

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- the shell has a thickness in the range of 20 - 200  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
- the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.004 - 0.04,
- the shell comprises 70 - 90 % (m/m) gelatin and 10 - 30 % (m/m) plasticizer, based on the solids content of the shell, and
- the core has a flavoring content in the range of 1 - 100 % (m/m), based on the total mass of the core, wherein the shell contains 0.4 - 3 % (m/m) gellan gum, based on the solids content of the shell.